



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

1512 Reporting Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND:

- 1512 is a section of the Recovery Act that requires certain data to be given to the federal government on a periodic basis (every three months after October 2009).
- The Recovery Act requires an unprecedented level of data reporting and transparency regarding the spending of federal funds.
- The 1512 process requires recipients to submit up to 99 different data elements per award. The number of data elements reported per program depends on which fields are applicable, and how many sub-awards and vendors are involved. That means there could be thousands of data elements for one program, or as few as 60.
- The types of data required to be reported to the federal government include:
 - Amount of money spent as of a certain time
 - Name of contractor hired (if applicable)
 - Location of work
 - Project status
 - Quarterly activity description
 - Award description
 - Recipient's location
- The 1512 process serves primarily as an accounting mechanism for the federal government, and includes data that would be of little use to the public, like a long federal award ID number.
- The 1512 process requires a specific calculation about job impact for each grant, contract or loan. The calculation involves a calculating the full-time equivalent positions over the period reporting period. The job calculation will NOT reflect number of people hired for each program. The calculation was updated in December for this most recent reporting cycle.

- The data submitted to the federal government will be posted on www.Recovery.gov. The data submitted in October has been posted on this public website since October 30.
- The 1512 process is separate from existing reporting requirements for each program. That means there are three levels of information gathering for Recovery Act dollars. The federal agencies report to OMB on their spending. The recipients report to OMB. And a wide variety of agencies report to the federal government to comply with 1512 requirements.
- The data will not be exhaustive. It will include ONLY what is required in the Recovery Act, as interpreted by OMB and federal agencies.

ASSESSMENT OF OCTOBER REPORTING:

- The October reporting process went well overall in Colorado.
- There was a lot of media focus on mistakes made by recipients regarding job calculations and congressional districts.
- We conducted an analysis of the job data and found that the vast majority of information appeared to be sound, but there were some significant examples of incorrect job data.
- The issues we saw seemed to be caused by misunderstanding of how to calculate jobs and recipients who were reporting job projections rather than prior job impact.
- The federal government only wants job data tied to prior work activity in the reporting quarter.
- Some recipients did not submit data and were listed on a national report released on Recovery.gov.

CHANGES FOR JANUARY REPORTING CYCLE:

- The job data should not be cumulative. Recipients should only report hours worked in the full-time equivalent calculation between October 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.
- The current job guidance supersedes all OMB and Federal Agency guidance from the October reporting cycle.
- OMB has stated that it is their goal to ensure consistency between their guidance and any future clarification by the federal agencies. They have asked that if we feel like there is inconsistent guidance that we let them know so they can work to resolve it.
- Other than the job data, the rest of the data should be cumulative. That means expenditures and funds received should reflect totals from when the award was announced.

- Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments from HUD don't need to be reported by local housing agencies. Please see the OMB guidance for a full list of programs that must report for 1512.
- Recipients have until January 15 to submit new reports. After that only changes to existing reports will be allowed.
- The online submission system now will flag potential errors and, in some cases, require changes before the report can be submitted.
- Recipients and federal agencies will review data until the end of January.
- Unlike in the October reporting cycle, recipients will be able to change data until April.

RESOURCES:

- The Governor's Economic Recovery Team has a resource page for recipients on its website, www.colorado.gov/recovery. Click on "resources" and then click on "reporting help center" on the left.
- The website for reporting is www.federalreporting.gov and includes resources for recipients.
- The national Recovery Act oversight board website has resources. The website is www.recovery.gov and their new information for recipients is at http://www.recovery.gov/FAQ/recipient/Pages/Recipient_Reporting.aspx
- The federal agencies have resources on their website as well.

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